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Prosecutor rebuked on death penalty

Deters unswayed as Jesuit leader says he undermines teachings of the church

Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters says that he long ago reconciled his Roman Catholic faith with the idea that sometimes he must seek the death penalty in the most heinous cases. MEG VOGEL/THE ENQUIRER

Sharon Coolidge Cincinnati Enquirer | USA TODAY NETWORK

A Vatican official tells Joe Deters he is disappointed, embarrassed and scandalized that the Hamilton County prosecutor would openly defy the Roman Catholic Church in saying a new policy opposing the death penalty is misguided.

And he suggested Deters go to confession.

Deters, as he sought the death penalty for serial killer Anthony Kirkland this month, woke up to news that Pope Francis changed church teachings about the death penalty. The pope now says it is always "inadmissible" because it "attacks" the inherent dignity of all humans.

> **"I know that I am protecting citizens."**
>
> **Joe Deters**
> Hamilton County prosecutor

It didn't deter Deters, a Roman Catholic. He told The Enquirer that day: "My dear friends who are priests don't understand what we're dealing with. There is evil in this world and there comes a point where society needs to defend itself."

The Rev. Paul Mueller, vice director and superior of the Jesuit community at the Vatican Observatory outside Rome, responded to those comments in an Aug. 6 letter to Deters, telling him, "I am disappointed, embarrassed, and scandalized that you, not only a Catholic but also a fellow alumnus of St. Xavier High School, have used the platform of your

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Hubers reduced to tears

It is the most emotion she has shown during her murder retrial.

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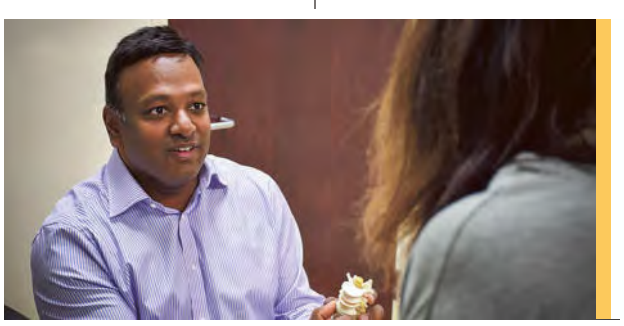

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